

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 MC-02 ACDA-10 IO-10 AID-05 /100 W

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R 241502Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE 5376

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 7273

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT'S QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AT ASU NATIONAL
CONGRESS

SUMMARY. DURING QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AT SECOND SITTING JULY 23 OF ASU NATIONAL CONGRESS, PRES SADAT RANGED OVER TOPICS FROM REFUSAL OF FACE-TO-FACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELIS AND SALZBURG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD TO PARLOUS STATE OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY AND FUTURE OF EGYPTIAN PUBLIC SECTOR. SADAT REVIEWED STANDS OF MOST ARAB COUNTRIES DURING OCTOBER WAR AND SINGLED OUT QADHAAFI FOR HARSH CRITICISM. PRESIDENT DEPLORED USE OF STRIKES IN SOCIALIST EGYPTIAN SOCIETY. CONGRESS ALSO UNANIMOUSLY NOMINATED SADAT FOR NEW TERM AS EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT, AND HE ACCEPTED. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST QUESTION FROM FLOOR AT SECOND SESSION OF ASU CONGRESS REQUESTED DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS JUNE 1 AND 2 IN SALZBURG BETWEEN SADAT AND PRESIDENT FORD. AFTER COMMENTING THAT MARCH 1975 FAILURE OF SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT TALKS AT ASWAN NECESSITATED MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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OUTSIDE US, SADAT EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD FAITHFULLY CONVEYED ARAB

VIEWPOINT, AS ENUNCIATED AT RABAT SUMMIT, TO PRESIDENT FORD, NAMELY REFUSAL TO RELINQUISH ONE INCH OF ARAB LAND AND TO ABANDON RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. SADAT STATED THAT FORD HAS ASSURED HIM THAT US WOULD NOT ALLOW ME SITUATION TO REMAIN IN STATE OF NO PEACE-NO WAR, AND THAT BOTH HAD AGREED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE RECONVENED, REGARDLESS OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT.

2. SADAT STATED THAT NEITHER HE NOR FORD HAD GONE TO SALZBURG WITH ANY SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO ME CRISIS OR ANY DRAWN-UP MAPS, ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS HAD INSISTED THAT ANY NEW DISENGAGEMENT MUST INVOLVE SINAI PASSES AND OIL FIELD AT ABU RUDEIS. SADAT COMMENTED THAT TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY AMB EILTS HAD PRESENTED HIM WITH LATEST DETAILS OF NEGOTIATING EFFORTS FROM WASHINGTON AND THAT HE, SADAT, HAD GIVEN REPLY. SADAT STATED THAT HE AS YET HAD NOTHING DEFINITE TO REPORT CONCERNING LATEST ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. SADAT ALSO STATED THAT HE AND FORD HAD DISCUSSED CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION OF EGYPT AT SALZBURG. PRES CONFIDED THAT EGYPT WAS VIRTUALLY BROKE ON EVE OF OCTOBER WAR AS RESULT OF HEAVY SPENDING ON MILITARY AND EGYPTIAN DEFICIT STOOD AT 1.5 BILLION POUNDS STERLING, WHILE PAYMENTS ON INTEREST STOOD AT VIRTUALLY 100 MILLION POUNDS YEARLY. SADAT STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT FORD WAYS TO CONVERT SHORT-TERM EGYPTIAN DEBT INTO LONG-TERM LOANS WITH SUFFICIENT GRACE PERIOD TO REFLOAT ECONOMY. SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, QATAR, AND ABU DHABI HAD AGREED TO PUT UP HALF OF 1.5 BILLION POUND DEFICIT, SADAT SAID, AND FORD HAD AGREED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH US ALLIES IN EUROPE AND JAPAN, TO HELP WITH SECOND HALF OF DEFICIT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING STANDS OF ARAB STATES DURING OCTOBER WAR, SADAT LAVISHED PRAISE ON MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNIS, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, QATAR, ABU DHABI, PDRY, AND IRAQ, WHILE GOING ON AT GREAT LENGTH CONCERNING LIBYA'S OBSTRUCTIONISM, DEFEATISM, AND BROKEN PROMISES DURING WAR. SADAT DISCUSSED CONSULTATIONS WITH LATE SAUDI KING FAYSAL BEFORE OCTOBER WAR, IN WHICH SAUDI MONARCH FEARS FOR EGYPT, AND PRAISED SADUI PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS FOR EGYPT BEFORE WAR AND OF MIRAGES AFTER WAR.

5. SADAT COMMENTS CONCERNING FACE-TO-FACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAEL REPORTED SEPTTEL.

6. CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, PRES STATED THAT QADHAAFI HAD BECOME ACTIVE IN BACKING REJECTION FRONT AS RESPONSE TO SADAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUEZ CANAL OPENING, BUT THAT EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH PLO (SPECIFICALLY ARAFAT, FARUQ QADDUMI, AND SALAH KHALAF) CONTINUED FRIENDLY. IN RESPONSE TO OTHER QUESTIONS, PRES SADAT STRONGLY URGED EGYPTIAN

PRESS TO FOLLOW IDEALS OF JULY 23 REVOLUTION AND PRAISED HONOR CODE SUBMITTED BY HIGHER PRESS COUNCIL TO NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL; DEFENDED EGYPTIAN PUBLIC SECTOR, PRAISING ITS EFFORTS BETWEEN 1967 AND 1973 WAR, AND STATED THAT ANY GROWTH IN PRIVATE SECTOR OR IN MIXED ENTERPRISES AUTOMATICALLY MEANS GROWTH OF PUBLIC SECTOR AS WELL; AND SIDE-STEPPED THORNY ISSUE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS. PRES SADAT ALSO DEPLORED USE OF VIOLENCE AND STRIKES TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS AND VOWED TO UPHOLD RULE OF LAW.

7. AT END OF SESSION, CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY NOMINATED SADAT FOR NEW FOUR-YEAR TERM IN PRESIDENCY, ALTHOUGH HE HAD TWICE REJECTED PROPOSAL THAT CONGRESS TAKE SUCH ACTION. SADAT ACCEPTED WITH QUOTATION FROM QURAN.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO07273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-1023
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750723/aaaaaudz.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT'S QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AT ASU NATIONAL CONGRESS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006